

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the rejections contained in the Office Action of September 12, 2007 is respectfully requested.

In view of the election of apparatus claims 1-18 and 22-33 in the response filed July 7, 2006, the elected claims were examined in the outstanding Office Action. In particular, the Examiner rejected elected claims 1-3, 5-18, 22-23, 25-26, 28-30, and 33 in view of the prior art. However, the Examiner also indicated that dependent claims 4, 24, 27, and 31-32 contain allowable subject matter, and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As a result, the pending claims have now been amended as discussed below.

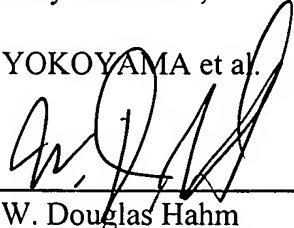
As an initial matter, rejected elected claims 6-18 and non-elected claims 19-21 have been cancelled. In addition, independent claim 1 has now been amended so as to incorporate the subject matter of allowable dependent claim 4, and dependent claim 4 has been cancelled. Furthermore, independent claim 22 has now been amended so as to incorporate the subject matter of allowable dependent claim 24, and dependent claim 24 has also been cancelled. Finally, allowable dependent claim 27 has been amended so as to be placed in independent form including all of the subject matter of original base independent claim 22 and intervening claim 26, and allowable dependent claims 31 and 32 have each also been amended so as to be placed in independent form including the subject matter of original base independent claim 22. No substantive changes to the original allowable language have been made.

In view of the amendments discussed above, this application now includes amended independent claims 1, 22, 27, 31, and 32. Furthermore, in view of the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter on page 12 of the outstanding Office Action, it is respectfully submitted that the amended independent claims, and all of the claims that depend therefrom, are now clearly patentable over the prior art of record and in condition for allowance.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. However, if the Examiner should have any comments or suggestions to help speed the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is requested to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

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